



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EL PASO MAN SENTENCED TO 151 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE METHAMPHETAMINE INTO THE UNITED STATES**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 39-year-old Jose Maria Sanchez of El Paso, Texas, was sentenced yesterday to 151 months in federal prison for attempting to smuggle 10 pounds of methamphetamine into the United States.

In addition, U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martinez ordered that Sanchez pay a \$1,000 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

On July 12, 2003, Sanchez was arrested at the Bridge of Americas by Customs and Border Protection inspectors. Inspectors noticed fresh tool marks on the engine, and subsequently located ten packages of methamphetamine in the manifold area of the engine. On October 6 2003, Sanchez pled guilty to importation of methamphetamine and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

This case was investigated by agents with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Kristal Wade prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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